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Tape 862 Finding Aid

INTERVIEWEE NAMES:

G.N. Jackson 4700.0588 Tape 862.1 (Tape 2 of 3)
Major General R.C.A. Edge and Mrs. Patricia Edge 4700.0586 Tape 862.2 (Tape 3 of 3)

IDENTIFICATION: Britons in Pre-Independence India

INTERVIEWERS: Frank de Caro and Rosan Jordan

SERIES: British Voices from South Asia

INTERVIEW DATES:

Jackson: 4/2/1978

Edge: 3/31/1978

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 34 minutes

Jackson: 53 minutes

Edge: 41 minutes

OTHER MATERIALS: None

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Tape 862, Side A

Edges (Part 3 of 3) (862.2)

- 004 many people were being killed in Rawalpindi
- 006 most of the last part of his time spent was trying to stop the murders and keep everything together
- 008 when Partition came, all the Hindus were sent to India while the Muslims came back; it was difficult to get the Muslims back because the trains were always being attacked
- 011 had to arrange for guarded trains to ensure the Muslims would make it back to Pakistan
- 015 they did not have enough maps of Pakistan so they were printing some in Dorado (?); Edge had to go and get them released
- 023 he once went to get a Muslim friend's family and bring them to Pakistan; instead of just three or four family members, there was a "busload" of family members
- 038 the train was already full, so the only way to get everyone on board was to shove them in there; Edge refused to leave until the whole family was on the train

043 they all arrived safely
044 one favorable characteristic of the Indians is that they are a grateful people; the Muslim
friend became a friend for life and still exchange Christmas cards
049 during the mutiny, the Muslim friend's ancestors had rescued a British family
055 Kenneth Wilson was in Delhi and was having the same problems in reverse; he was trying
to prevent the Muslims from being killed in Delhi
059 changed positions
063 one preoccupation was the arguments over the frontiers, especially in east Bengal, east
Pakistan and India; they had to establish a boundary commission
071 by then, his wife had left; he left a year or so later because you cannot stay forever; he
stayed on long enough to get the others started
074 when he went home, he went into the British service, which he did not care for at all
076 Kenneth Wilson went out again; his friend Rex stayed a little while longer, retired and was
replaced by Kenneth as a civilian general
082 Edge did not particularly care for a particular civilian general while in Pakistan, but now
they are very close friends
090 in a way, Edge was glad to get home, but was sad at leaving; was excited to get back home
because his wife and children were there
100 everyone notices how green England is after being in India, which was very brown
106 discuss pictures
111 their daughter was taught various Hindu hymns in the Hindu temple near their home
112 Edge lived in a haunted house in Bihar as a child, though he never saw the ghost; Patricia's
house was not haunted because it was too modern
120 [Tratral?] is a great place for natural polo
124 you played many games with the troops; hockey and polo were the most popular sports
130 Edge was never very fond of shooting, unlike some
133 in India, you spent lots of time outdoors and in camp; survey camps were enjoyable;
depending on what you were doing, you stayed in one area for a good amount of time or
you moved around
137 it was usually pleasant being in one place one day, then moving somewhere else to observe
141 there was primitive transportation
142 it was always nice to arrive at a new place and find camp already set-up and the bearer has
a hot bath and whiskey or tea waiting on you
146 it was a very unsettled life; Edge and his wife moved thirty-nine times while married; they
did not mind moving, although not everyone was like that
151 people in the secretary at Delhi and the ICS would keep two homes, one in Delhi and the
other in Shimla
157 moving around frequently made it difficult to have a beautiful home and furniture
158 you would never buy furniture because you would hire it
162 there was a temporary nature to everything in India; the Indians take naturally to this type
of lifestyle
165 the Indians are great at moving because they are always moving around, either between
villages, on their way home or on their way back from home
169 each regiment had its own recruiting area; everyone once in a while, you would be sent on
a recruiting tour, although Edge never went on one
178 there were always more recruits than you were able to recruit so you had to take the
physically best prospects and send them to the training battalion

181 it was amazing to see the change in the recruits from entering training to the time they were
 finished; it took six months to make them look different, but the training went on longer
 187 depending on where you were, you might have had a government bungalow; larger areas
 may allow you to have a government bungalow, rent, or buy one from someone
 184 some civilians, like secretaries, seemed to be static; although the ICS had nice headquarters
 in their district, they were required to tour a lot too
 200 the district was a more direct responsibility of the junior ICS officers, which were
 sometimes the size of a small country
 205 Edge's group did more and wider touring because they were responsible for all of India
 213 you would get used to traveling; one of the things about going back to England was that it
 took time to get used to not moving somewhere else; it affects the children too because they
 also get used to moving
 230 Nicholas [Braybook?] had the opinion that all religions are similar and was going to
 organize a tour based on that idea; if you want to see India, the religious shrines are not the
 only things worth seeing
 250 talk about some of their photos
 257 in one area, there were a lot of crocodiles
 285 Edge's father did a lot of touring; talks about the PWD bungalow
 286 when you are touring, you would find bungalows that would become the center of the camp
 301 there were servants that stayed with them the entire time; there are a few that they still keep
 in touch with
 308 the trains were always interesting because of the places they went through
 310 the Indian woman in the picture was married to the son of "the Frontier Gandhi"
 329 look at a photograph of a winter home they had
 335 they decorate the elephants for ceremonies and special occasions
 339 horses played a significant role in India when Edge was growing up; they seemed to have
 disappeared when he returned
 349 cars are difficult to get in India and are extremely expensive
 351 India is famous for making things that should not go actually go
 367 talk about Edge's short-stories
 370 look at a various pictures of his father
 386 Edge's father retired particularly young because he was did not like work very much; he
 had to decide to either stay on another couple of years and be separated from his family or
 retire at forty-five
 392 usual retirement age in India is in the early fifties, partly because they "were half dead" by
 then; people often retired because their families had to go home
 406 look at more pictures
 428 theatricals were an important part of life because there was a large group of people there;
 Patricia was in a dramatic production
 447 the planes were famous for their flooding; Edge's father and the PWD dealt a lot with that
 478 both of Edge's sisters went out to India; one went out with the fishing fleet, but she was not
 very successful in India; she taught at a convent in Delhi
 493 end of Edge interview

Tape 862, Side A cont'd

Jackson (Part 1 of 4) (862.1)

494 beginning of Jackson interview

495 he went in the government service; he started in the Indian police service
 504 did a lot of court and case work, prosecutions, investigations and general supervision;
 British officers were really in supervisory positions
 509 the whole police force were Indians, except for one or two British officers per district; the
 force could run perfectly without the British, as it was designed to
 518 Jackson was one of two supervisors in a district of one million people; was in the Punjab
 523 he then went to the Northwest Frontier province and joined a semi-military police force;
 the main goal was guarding the frontier from raiders coming from outside India; they
 performed civilian duties against armed raiding bands of about 100 men
 533 he was then invited to join the political service, being recruited from existing servicemen in
 India; there was no direct recruitment from England and it was filled by officers from the
 Indian Civil Service, Indian Army and Indian Police
 551 you got into the Indian police force by passing a civil service exam commissioners in
 England
 558 the Indian police department was divided into two parts: it represented India to neighboring
 countries, where India needed to be represented, and it administered India's relations with
 the frontier peoples
 576 they shared with the foreign office the posts in Iran on the Persian Gulf
 582 external affairs department was started by the Indian police service; the districts in the
 Northwest Frontier were administered by the police service because it was a frontier
 district
 592 the crown representatives were representatives of the crown to the kings and princes; the
 crown representatives were also the viceroys
 602 the external affairs area dealt with affairs outside the frontiers
 604 end of side A

Tape 862, Side B

Jackson (Part 3 of 4) (862.1)

002 it was expected of the ruling people to take over
 003 Indians were very hierarchical people; the British hierarchical system was more so because
 of the Indian influence
 011 you only had to go to a maharajah's court to see a good demonstration of hierarchy; you
 would have to pay to be in the audience
 019 you would set out to put your tents on the ground where everything happened; called tent
 clubs
 021 went pig sticking in India, but he did not have time to do very much; did some in Iraq by
 himself
 025 if the conditions are easy, you can do it yourself; it is almost the only thing you can do by
 yourself
 026 the conditions in Iraq are easy because there was a large number of pigs that all acted in a
 predictable way, the ground was flat and easy to ride on, and there was limited cover for the
 pigs to hide in
 029 in the Ganges Carter, the grass was extremely high, pigs were unpredictable and were few
 in numbers, terrain was terrible, and it required three men to go and catch one
 031 pig sticking in India involved a good number of tents, ten or twelve people, thirty or so
 horses, a large number of beaters, some cattle and elephants for larger hunts; it was no
 more than a fox hunt in England

040 everyone in Peshawar would go out on the hunts; if you did not have a horse, you could
rent one from the cavalry;

043 amusements in India were self-made

045 besides dancing and balls, there was bird shooting or big game shooting

046 it was not difficult in those days to shoot a tiger; you were encouraged to shoot panthers
because they were seen as a nuisance by anyone that had livestock or loved ones

055 Jackson did shoot a panther before; that particular panther had killed a calf the night before;
he sat in a tree during the night, waiting for the panther to return to its kill

074 it was very exciting and he did it because someone had asked him to do it; it was normally
the poor asking him to kill panthers because they had to survive on the limited livestock; he
was also the only one with a gun

083 Jackson was the first of his family to go out to India; it made a slight difference

088 there was a great tradition of going out to India and many families had been there a very
long time; most of the famous names from the mutiny could be found in the army lists, but
not all were in the army

091 the reason for most of them being in the army is because the army was so easy to get into;
the rest of the services were recruited by competitive exams given from the schools and
universities of England; there was no guarantee that someone working out there would win
the competition

098 the large number of British in India over the years had connections in the army because
they were the most numerous people there

100 if your name was one of the famous names from the mutiny, any army regiment would be
happy to have you; the government exams limited the number of people accepted for those
jobs; the armies love the names of famous generals

108 many of them had been there for generations; many regiments had been started off as the
mercenary regiments of the military adventurers and known for the name of their founders;
officers of those names are still serving

117 the British government services in India were elite and carefully chosen; they were better
than the civil services in England; the Indian Civil Service could not have been more than
250

128 the intake for the Indian Civil Service was around twelve per year; the same for the Indian
police; the Indian army may have been around sixty; it was rare to see anyone of these
outside the large towns

134 they were trying to run the country for the Indians benefit; they had established a strong
military position; there was an atmosphere of "benevolent paternalism"

147 they were civil servants that treated the people as they would have to treat people back
home

158 the Victorian ideal was carried on as a tradition; the standards of integrity in the public
service departments in India were miles above the current standards in England

164 the way of life was an older way of life that seemed to be at least thirty years behind; they
were still living pre-1914, at least socially

169 the motorcars killed the horse transportation system, although many kept their horses
because they were fun

179 there were horse-carriage regiments that were not recognized until 1939

184 the social life really centered around the club, which survived much longer in India than in
England; they are like the country clubs in America

200 clubs in England were established as a small social club for those that controlled all the

money and prestige; the early clubs were filled with those that were richer than anyone else
 in England; they died out when the wealth became more evenly distributed
 211 clubs in India went on because that was the form in India; there were few that had plenty
 while the rest had none; those with plenty money went to the clubs; the same is true about
 the country clubs in America
 234 one generation of millionaires did not talk to the second generation, although Jackson
 cannot figure out why
 240 the west in America was very hierarchical; it seemed to be based on how long you had been
 making one million dollars a year; most made their money from the railways
 247 there was always a club at headquarters; when all the service administrations were being
 run by the British, there would be a collector, doctor, public works engineer, education
 department chief, chief of police, some had a civil judge and soldiers; there may have been
 some planters; this was enough people to have a club
 263 as the services were "Indianized", the doctors soon became all Indian; the education and
 public works department became almost all Indian; the police force and ICS was about
 fifty percent Indian
 269 as the Indians began to take over the jobs, they became more frequent in the clubs; by the
 time Jackson arrived, there would only be a few white faces among all the Indians
 272 if you were in a cantonment with two or three regiments, there would be about thirty
 soldiers and wives; in the tea district, there would be tea growers and no soldiers
 275 there are numerous clubs in Calcutta; there are many state managers in the clubs of
 Bombay and Calcutta; also many business men
 286 dares to think there are more British in India now than when the British were in charge
 because of all the business activity, both in principles and as employees
 311 amazing that people could responsibly exercise large amount of power and differently;
 British were not thrown out of India, left because they thought it was the right thing to do
 317 if the British could have gotten out before antagonists began to capitalize on the long
 British rule, people may have adjusted better, but it is difficult to say
 327 you lived with the Indians, not the British; all the people actively engaged in anything in
 India lived with the Indians
 331 the British army was not involved with their Indian troops, unlike the Indian army
 338 the average district consisted of one million people, all under the responsibility of the
 district commissioner; nearly all the district commissioner's staff, including the senior
 members and supervisors, were Indian
 344 Jackson was never in Calcutta; there were some very rich Indian businessmen in Calcutta
 doing business with each other; the area of business was not a monopoly of the British,
 they only ran some of the things
 358 Jackson left in January of 1947; it was a gradual transition to being stationed in India; he
 first went out in 1933
 368 English adjusted selves very well after leaving India; found they were able to handle the
 competition of England and fit into some type of leadership role well
 397 Jackson is an insurance broker
 408 there were physical living difficulties in India; it was extremely hot and uncomfortable; the
 food was terrible; depending on where you were, you sometimes could not find an
 English-type meal
 427 you would only go on leave every four years
 429 the economy was different in England; salaries were better than those in England, but

everything was lower-quality; you had more of everything, but everything was inferior
437 you were forced to take your civilization with you and teach it to people; you only enjoyed
the level of civilization that you took with you; you had to teach the servants everything
you knew
443 there were no air conditioners and primitive refrigerators were just beginning to come in;
winter came so suddenly that everyone caught the flu; the winters were nice and
comfortable, but summer would suddenly come again, along with the flu and hepatitis
452 you had to be tough and vigorous to survive; the European cemeteries were full of people
that died before age twenty; if you survived to twenty, you would usually live a long time
459 India was full of malaria; you could never sleep without a mosquito net; there was also
water contaminating insects; some insects would bore holes in the skin that would never
heal; dysentery and cholera were very common
481 Jackson once killed a snake that was climbing out of the bathroom drain with a hockey
stick
484 the bathrooms were very primitive
493 home leave was every four years; there was a ten day per year short leave; trip to Kashmir
to do whatever you pleased
520 people of Kashmir were aware of the type of army movements and turned it into a tourist
attraction; you see the scenery on horseback, reaching a new, freshly pitched tent every
evening with tea and food waiting
534 there was a two-tent system, so you arrived with everything already up; you could save
money by having them set-up camp when you arrived
541 you could fish for trout in nearby streams
546 the Eurasian community was slightly underprivileged because they were not completely
accepted by the Indian or the British, but not completely unaccepted
553 end of tape